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His Attorney Says Ray Has Given Him Leads

LONDON (AP) — James Earl Ray's American lawyer talked with him in prison today and said he got "names and other leads" to build a case for the defense of Ray, accused of assassinating Martin Luther King Jr.

Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., met with Ray for an hour in an interview room at Wandsworth Prison. Hanes said afterward he found the conditions somewhat restrictive. He said he was not permitted an interview in confidence. He and Ray were separated by a glass screen.

The Alabama lawyer said he was beginning to build his case and organize a defense for the day that Ray might be extradited to stand trial for the murder of the American civil rights leader.

"Our meeting was most helpful, most fruitful and beneficial," Hanes said. "We got to know each other better. He is relaxed and feels good. He is perfectly rational, sane and lucid."

Hanes said he plans to leave London tomorrow and did not foresee another trip to Britain.

He said Ray had been receiving "many messages of support from the United States and he is grateful for it. He also has received many offers of help for his defense."

ARTHUR J. HANES

WITNESS ACCEPTS POLICE CUSTODY

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Charles Q. Stevens, identified as a key witness against James Earl Ray in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has been taken into protective custody.

"He wasn't as impressed at the danger as police and the district attorney's staff were," a source said in confirming that Stevens had been talked into submitting to protective custody.

During the extradition hearing in Britain last week an attorney said Stevens saw Ray in the rooming house from which police say the fatal bullet was fired.

Stevens had lived in the rooming house at the time, but he had not been found by newsmen in recent weeks. The source said police had approached him Wednesday about being taken into protective custody.

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